

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Dalea emarginata - wedge-leaf prairie clover Pea Family (Fabaceae)

Rarity Rank: S2/G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure



Photo by Alfred Richardson

Range:

- LA, TX, south to Vera Cruz, Mexico
- Known Louisiana occurrences are on beaches between Holly Beach and Johnsons Bayou in Cameron Parish

Recognition:

- Annual with taproot, branches erect to leaning and falling over
- Leaves alternate, compound with 13 to 17 leaflets, 2 to 5 cm long
- Flowers occur in spikes, oblong or cylindrical in shape, 1 to 3 cm long and 1 cm thick in fruit, long stalked
- Corollas are small and rose-purple in color with four of the petals inserted below the end of the stamen tube, and one at the base of the stamen tube
- Fruit is a small 1- or 2-seeded pod that is shaggy pubescent above

Flowering Time: March to December

Light Requirement: Full sun

Wetland Indicator Status:

Does not occur in wetlands anywhere in range

Habitat:

Species occurs in dry sandy Gulf beaches and coastal dune grasslands.

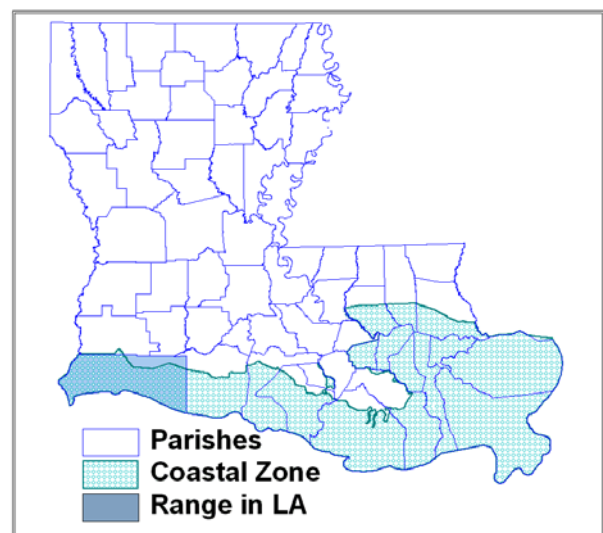
Threats:

- Shoreline erosion
- Vehicular traffic and other mechanical disturbances
- Cattle grazing

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Shoreline protection
- Protection of beaches and sand dunes from cattle and vehicular traffic

LA River Basins: Mermentau, Calcasieu, Sabine



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Two examples of *Dalea emarginata* habitat:

Left: Coastal dune grassland at Johnsons Bayou

Below: Sandy Gulf beach east of Holly Beach



Above: *D. emarginata* inflorescence

Photo by Alfred Richardson

References:

Correll, D. S. and M. C. Johnston. 1970. Manual of the Vascular Plants of Texas. Texas Research Foundation, Renner. 1881 pp.

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Richardson, A. 2002. Wildflowers and other plants of Texas beaches and islands. University of Texas Press, Austin. 247 pp.

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